

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-03

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DRAFTED BY: ARA/LA:GCHAFIN:GMR

APPROVED BY: ARA:GECHAFIN

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P 301727Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

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STADIS//////////

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

FOLLOWING REPEAT MEXICO 4694 ACTION SECSTATE 30 MAY 75

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MEXICO 4694

STADIS

FOR ASST SECRETARY ROGERS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MX

SUBJECT: ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS: U.S. PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION

REF: MEXICO 3654; MEXICO 4602; MEXICO 4653; MEXICO 4693

1. I ASSUME YOU HAVE NOTED RECENT EMBASSY CABLES
(REFS B, C, AND D) REPORTING REACTIONS HERE TO UNFORTUNATE
INCIDENT BETWEEN HIDALGO, TEXAS RANCH OWNER AND SPANISH-
SPEAKING FARM WORKERS ORGANIZED BY UFW, AND I KNOW YOU
SHARE MY CONCERN THAT INCIDENT OF THIS SORT COULD VERY
EASILY ERUPT INTO SERIOUS NEW DIFFICULTIES WITH GOM OVER
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MIGRANT MEXICAN LABOR QUESTION. IN THE PRESENT INSTANCE,

GOM HAS SO FAR LIMITED ITSELF TO INSTRUCTING ITS CONSUL IN MCALLEN TO INVESTIGATE THE INCIDENT, OFFER AID TO THE VICTIMS, AND URGE PROSECUTION (REF D).

2. I AM CONCERNED, HOWEVER, THAT IF THE MEXICANS SUCCEED IN DETERMINING THAT ANY OF THE VICTIMS WERE NATIONALS OF THIS COUNTRY WE WILL BE IN FOR ANOTHER SPATE OF RECRIMINATIONS REGARDING TREATMENT OF ALIEN WORKERS AND POSSIBLY RENEWED GOM PRESSURES FOR AN AGREEMENT OF SOME SORT TO PROTECT THEIR "HUMAN RIGHTS."

3. IN THIS CONTEXT, I FIND IT MOST DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND THE APPARENT DELAY ON OUR PART IN SETTING UP THE COMMISSION WHICH PRESIDENT FORD AGREED TO ESTABLISH DURING HIS TALKS WITH ECHEVERRIA ON THE BORDER LAST OCTOBER. THE LATEST WORD I HAVE ON THE COMMISSION CAME FROM ARA/MEX EARLY IN APRIL, TO THE EFFECT THAT THE COMMISSION HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED UNDER AN EXECUTIVE ORDER AND THAT CERTAIN FEDERAL AGENCIES HAD BEEN NAMED TO SIT ON IT, BUT THAT THE COMMISSION HAD NOT YET MET. (HOWEVER, A VISITING CHICANO LEADER RECENTLY TOLD US THAT THE COMMISSION HAD ALREADY SCHEDULED MEETINGS IN THE SAN DIEGO AREA--SEE REF . A).

4. I AM CONVINCED THAT A COMMISSION OF THIS SORT, WORKING IN TANDEM WITH THE MEXICAN INTERSECRETARIAL COMMISSION, COULD DO MUCH TO DEFUSE INCIDENTS OF THE HIDALGO SORT -- AS WELL AS SHEDDING BADLY-NEEDED LIGHT ON THE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT PROBLEM GENERALLY. AT THE VERY LEAST, THE MERE EXISTENCE OF SUCH A COMMISSION WOULD HELP DEMONSTRATE OUR GOOD INTENTIONS WHEN IT COMES TO FENDING OFF RENEWED GOM PRESSURES ON THIS SUBJECT.

5 . CONSEQUENTLY, I WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR ANYTHING YOU CAN DO TO SEE THAT THE COMMISSION IS FORMED AND STAFFED WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY, SO THAT IT CAN BEGIN TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM BEFORE WE'RE SWAMPED WITH IT AND ON THE DEFENSIVE AGAIN.

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UNQUOTE. INGERSOLL

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